Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-20 and 23-30 are pending and presented for further examination. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-20 and 23-26 have been amended. Claims 3, 10, 21 and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 27-30 have been added. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing streamed electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client network ~~users~~ from at least one remote electronic content source, the method comprising:

receiving requests from two or more user terminals in the client network for streamed content from the at least one remote electronic content store;

providing a streamed unicast transmission of the requested content from the at least one content source for receipt by a client-side computer in the client network;

receiving the streamed unicast transmission of the requested content in the~~at a~~ client-side computer ~~server at a location serving a plurality of users;~~

processing the received content in the client-side computer ~~server~~ for distribution to the requesting plurality of user terminals in the client network ~~such that the content may be provided to more than one of the plurality of users served by the location~~; and

distributing the received and processed streamed content to each of the requesting plurality of user terminals in the client network. ~~plurality of users which has provided a request for the content.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the received and processed streamed content comprises distributing the content to a multicast group including each of the ~~plurality of~~ user terminals in the client network ~~users~~ which has provided a request for content by subscribing to the multicast group.

3. (canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]]1 comprising terminating the content transmission from the at least one content source to [[a]]the client-side computer ~~server~~ when the client-side computer ~~server~~ is not distributing the content to any of the ~~plurality of~~ requesting user terminals ~~users~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1 comprising transmitting additional content from the at least one content source to the client-side computer ~~server~~ in response to a request by [[a]] at least one user terminal ~~of the plurality of~~ in the client network ~~users served at the location by the client-side server~~ for content not currently being transmitted by the at least one content source to the client-side computer ~~server~~.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein transmitting the additional content comprises transmitting the additional content in another unicast transmission.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ providing the streamed unicast transmission comprises converting multicast format content into unicast format content for transmission to the client-side computer ~~server~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ processing the received content comprises converting content received in a unicast format into a multicast format suitable for distribution to subscribers of ~~transmission to~~ a multicast group.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 comprising monitoring ~~transmitted~~ streamed content and maintaining ~~limiting transmitted content to maintain~~ an amount of bandwidth suitable for servicing at least one application, other than an application servicing the distributed content, being run by each of the requesting ~~a plurality of~~ user terminals ~~users other than the content being received by such user~~.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 1 wherein the content is transmitted across the Internet.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for providing streamed ~~reducing the amount of bandwidth required to provide~~ electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client network ~~users~~ from a remote electronic content source, the system comprising:

a plurality of user terminals in a client network;

a content source ~~that allows the plurality of users to request content, the content source providing a~~ which provides a streamed unicast transmission of ~~the requested~~ content in response to the requests of two or more user terminals in the client network; ~~from the content source to the plurality of users in response to the content request;~~

a client-side computer ~~server for receiving the~~ in the client network which receives the streamed unicast transmission of requested content, processes the streamed content and ~~with at the plurality of users' terminal location, the client-side server processing the content such that the content is suitable for posting to a multicast group ; and for distributing~~ distributes the ~~received~~ processed content to the requesting user terminals in the client network ~~from the multicast group to the plurality of users~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the client-side computer ~~server further~~ comprises a listening socket for receiving and ~~queueing~~ queuing content requests.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the client-side computer includes software causing the client-side computer to form a multicast group including each of the user terminals in the client network which has provided a request for content by subscribing to the multicast group, the client-side computer ~~server further comprises~~ comprising a monitoring program to monitor whether ~~subscribers to the multicast group to determine if at least some multicast group~~ subscribers are requesting the content transmitted by the content source.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the monitoring program includes software that terminates the content transmission if no subscriber[[s]] within the multicast group ~~are~~ is requesting the streamed content ~~being received~~ from the content source.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the monitoring program includes software that requests transmission of an additional content stream if a subscriber within the multicast group is requesting content not currently being transmitted by the content source.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the content source ~~further~~ comprises circuitry that converts multicast format content into unicast format content for transmission to the client-side computer ~~server~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the wherein the client-side computer ~~content source server further~~ comprises a pseudo media player that converts content received in unicast format into a multicast format suitable for distribution ~~posting~~ to the multicast group.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[1]]14 wherein the monitoring program includes software that ensures that a minimum amount of upstream bandwidth is preserved in a transmission path for accommodating application critical communications.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for providing streamed ~~a minimum quality of service in a reduced bandwidth network that provides~~ electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client network~~users~~ from a remote electronic content source, the method comprising:

~~allowing the plurality of users to request content from the~~receiving requests from two or more user terminals in the client network for streamed content from the electronic content source;

forming a multicast group comprising user terminals that have provided requests for the streamed content;

providing a streamed unicast transmission of the requested content from the content source for receipt by a client-side computer in the client network; ~~to the plurality of users in response to the content request;~~

receiving the streamed unicast transmission of the requested content in the ~~at with a~~ client-side computer ~~server, at the plurality of users' location; and~~

processing the received content in the client-side computer ~~server~~ such that the content is suitable for distribution ~~provided~~ to [[a]] the multicast group; and

distributing the received and processed content ~~from~~ to each of the requesting user terminals of the client network in the multicast group ~~to the plurality of users.~~

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a minimum quality of service in a reduced bandwidth network that provides streamed electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client from a remote electronic content source, the method comprising:

receiving requests from two or more user terminals in a client network for streamed content from the at least one remote electronic content store;

providing a streamed unicast transmission of the requested content from the at least one content source for receipt by a client-side computer in the client network;

receiving the streamed unicast transmission of the requested content in the client-side computer;

processing the received content in the client-side computer for distributing to the requesting plurality of user terminals in the client network;

distributing the received and processed streamed content to each of the requesting plurality of user terminals in the client network; and

~~The method of claim 20 wherein the~~ monitoring ~~further comprises analyzing~~ the client-side computer ~~server~~ for potential quality of service problems.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the monitoring further comprises assessing the availability of other client-side computers ~~servers~~.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising replacing an inoperative client-side computer ~~server~~ with a computer ~~server~~ deemed available in the assessing ~~assessment~~ step to maintain a minimum quality of service level.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising reassigning at least part of a workload of a client-side computer ~~server~~ deemed overburdened by ~~the~~ fault detection software with a computer ~~server~~ deemed available in the assessing ~~assessment~~ step to balance client-side computer ~~server~~ workload.

27. (New) A system for providing streamed electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client network from a remote electronic content source, the system comprising:

a plurality of user terminals in a client network, each including a display device;

a content source which provides a streamed transmission in a unicast format of content in response to the requests of two or more user terminals in the client network;

a client-side computer in the client network which receives the streamed unicast format transmission of requested content, processes the streamed content into a multicast format and distributes the processed multicast format content to the requesting user terminals in the client network;

each of the plurality of terminals in the client network including software for processing received streamed multicast format content into unicast format for display on a respective display device.

28. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein each of the plurality of terminals in the client network includes a local proxy which includes the software.

29. (New) A system for providing electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client network from a remote electronic content source, the system comprising:

a plurality of user terminals in a client network;

a content source which provides a streamed unicast transmission of content in response to the requests of two or more user terminals in the client network;

a client-side computer in the client network which receives the streamed unicast transmission of requested content, processes the streamed content and distributes the received and processed content to the requesting user terminals in the client network;

each of the plurality of terminals in the client network including a local proxy which prepares the distributed streamed content for display at the respective user terminal.

30. A method for providing streamed electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client network from a remote electronic content source, the system comprising:

providing a streamed transmission in a unicast format of content from the remote content source in response to the requests of two or more user terminals in the client network;

receiving the streamed unicast format transmission of requested content in a client-side computer in the client network;

possessing the streamed content into a multicast format in the client-side computer;

distributing the received and processed multicast format content to the requesting user terminals in the client network;

processing received streamed multicast format content into unicast format in the respective user terminal for display at a respective terminal.